



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, April 29, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

SOD Report:

USDA issued an amended emergency order restricting movement of nursery stock from California nurseries on April 22.

The amended order prohibits the interstate movement of any listed host nursery stock and associated articles from any commercial nursery in non-quarantined areas of California until the nursery has been inspected and determined by USDA to show no evidence of *P. ramorum* infection. The procedures and protocols for making this determination are detailed in the order (<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod>). The Order also adds associated articles to the currently regulated articles in the existing Federal regulation. The April 22 Order will remain in effect until USDA can publish an interim rule in the Federal Register.

On April 23 PPQ hosted a conference call with members of the National Plant Board to announce and explain the Order and to get feedback from the states. Based on discussions during this call, a clarification of the order was issued.

P. ramorum has been confirmed in plants traced forward from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler in 62 facilities in 10 states. The numbers of nurseries or garden centers with positive trace forward samples from the wholesaler by state are California (15), Florida (5), Washington (5), Oregon (9), Georgia (13), Louisiana (4), North Carolina (8), New Mexico (1), Tennessee (2), and Virginia (1). The PPQ Confirmed Nursery Protocol is being implemented in confirmed positive facilities.

In addition to conducting trace forward surveys, several states have begun their CAPS national SOD survey.

The number of states that have promulgated their own regulations to prevent the movement of suspect plants from California remains at 15. Several States are also regulating plants from Oregon, Washington, or British Columbia

Nationally, 1,232 nurseries or garden centers received material from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler. Seven hundred ten state and/or federal holds are in place involving 144,794 plants. Over 5,500 samples have been collected from trace forward nurseries nationwide.

A confirmed positive mail order nursery in San Diego County shipped potentially infected plants to over 6,000 retail customers. A letter from PPQ advising these customers to contact their state departments of agriculture for proper handling of the plants has been mailed..

Source: Jim Writer

Cotton Pest Programs :

Boll Weevil Eradication - Cotton producers in four counties in West Texas voted last week to establish the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, and to join the eradication program this season. By a margin of 86 percent, growers indicated their strong support for getting rid of their weevils. Trapping and control activities will begin on the 157,000 acres of cotton within the next few months. Effective suppression of weevil populations in this zone will greatly curtail late-season weevil migration, saving growers in adjacent areas millions of dollars in additional control costs.

Nationwide, only two small areas in Texas, the Northern Blacklands and the Lower Rio Grande Valley, remain outside the eradication program. Discussions continue regarding their potential involvement in the program.

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